

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action mailed February 10, 2006, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. In the Office Action, claims 1-24 were rejected. By this amendment, claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 13, 18 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-24 remain pending in the application.

Objection to the Drawings

Fig. 5 was objected to as failing to properly show the "one or more test related signals" and "the other of the two controls signals." Applicant submits herewith a Replacement Sheet including Fig. 5. Fig. 5 has been amended to indicate that each of the lines connecting the BIST 306 to the multiplexer logic sections 314, 316 are multiple lines over which the recited signals are transmitted.

Based on this amendment, applicant asserts that Fig. 5 does show the signals recited in the claims and requests that the objection to Fig. 5 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-10 and 13-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1-10 and 13-21 have been amended substantially as suggested by the examiner. Regarding claims 9 and 21, applicant has amended these claims to indicate a second test mode of the system. Support for this amendment can be found on page 28, line 3 to page 29, line 5.

Based on the amendments to the claims, applicant requests that the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112 have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 13, 14 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Evans (US-6,966,017). Furthermore, claims 3-5, 10-12, 15-17 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Evans alone, or

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as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Miner. This rejection is respectfully traversed, as Evans is not prior art to the present application.

Applicant submits herewith an Affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 to establish invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to the effective date of the reference on which the rejection is based. The effective date of Evans is June 20, 2001. By the enclosed affidavit, applicant has established that the invention recited in claims 1-24 was conceived and reduced to practice as early as September 14, 2000.

Accordingly, Evans is not prior art to the invention recited in claims 1-24, and the rejections of claims 1, 2, 6-8, 13, 14 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and the rejections of claims 3-5, 10-12, 15-17 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are improper and should be withdrawn.

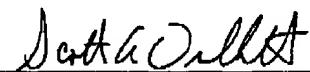
Based on the foregoing, applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-24 are allowable over the art of record and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application.

In the event the Patent Office deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this matter, the Office is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (508) 293-7835.

Please charge any fees occasioned by this submission to Deposit Account No. 05-0889.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 6/12/06



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